

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 06643 041900Z
ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T GENEVA 6643

EXDIS USSALTTWO

E O 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PARM
SUBJ: HIGHLIGHTS, POST-PLENARY CONVERSATIONS,
AUGUST 3, 1977 (SALT TWO -1322)

1. (ROWNY/BELETSKY, A-1691)
MOBILE ICBM/PROTOCOL DURATION
BELETSKY DEFENDED SOVIET MOBILE TEST AND DEPLOYMENT
BAN PROPOSAL AS A SOLUTION TO US DUAL CAPABILITY CON-
CERNS ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE SOVIETS HAD "DEMONSTRATED"
THAT THE SS-20 LAUNCHERS CANNOT LAUNCH THE SS-16. HE
ARGUED THAT THE PROTOCOL SHOULD BAN THE TESTING, AS
WELL AS THE DEPLOYMENT OF MOBILE ICBMS, SINCE TO DO
OTHERWISE WOULD GIVE THE US A UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE.
ROWNY NOTED THAT IF ANY UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE EXISTED,
IT WAS ON THE SOVIET SIDE, SINCE THEY HAD ALREADY
TESTED A MOBILE ICBM. BELETSKY ASKED WHY THE US HAD
PROPOSED THAT PROTOCOL REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL SEPTEMBER
30, 1980, VICE THREE YEARS FROM DATE OF SIGNATURE.
ROWNY SAID THE US HAD GIVEN THE PROTOCOL A DURATION OF
APPROXIMATELY THREE YEARS IN EXPECTATION THAT NEW
AGREEMENT WOULD BE SIGNED OCTOBER 3, 1977. HOWEVER,
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 06643 041900Z

HE NOTED, IF AGREEMENT WAS NOT SIGNED BY THAT DATE,
IT WOULD BE BETTER TO PUT A TERMINAL DATE ON THE PRO-
TOCOL, THUS, PLACING A DEFINITE END DATE FOR HOLDING
TECHNOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENTS IN ABEYANCE PENDING RESOLU-
TION OF THE ISSUES.

2. (G. JOHNSON/SHCHUKIN, A-1693)

MOBILE ICBM

SHCHUKIN OPENED THE DISCUSSION BY ASKING WHETHER JOHNSON BELIEVED THE DEPLOYMENT OF MOBILE ICBMS IS INEVITABLE. JOHNSON RESPONDED NO, BUT DECISION WOULD DEPEND ON HOW US VIEWS GROWING VULNERABILITY OF ITS ICBM FORCES. SHCHUKIN FELT THE SOVIET PROPOSAL TO BAN TESTING AND DEPLOYMENT OF MOBILE ICBMS DURING PERIOD OF PROTOCOL TOOK CARE OF SS-16/20 PROBLEM, IMPLYING THAT UNDER THIS PROVISION DEPLOYMENT OF SS-16 WOULD NOT OCCUR.

3. (A. JOHNSON/BEKETOV-JOURAVLEV, A-1692)

MOBILE ICBM

JOURAVLEV SAID SOVIET PROPOSAL TO BAN THE TESTING AND DEPLOYMENT OF MOBILE ICBM LAUNCHERS AND THEIR MISSILES WAS A BROADER SOLUTION TO THE SS-16/20 PROBLEM. WHEN ASKED IF THE SOVIET PROPOSAL WOULD PERMIT SS-16 DEPLOYMENT IN FIXED LAUNCHERS, JOURAVLEV SAID THEIR PROPOSAL WOULD BAN TESTING AND DEPLOYMENT OF SS-16 ICBM REGARDLESS OF WHETHER IT WAS DEPLOYED MOBILE OR FIXED MODE. JOURAVLEV RETURNED REPEATEDLY TO SOVIET STATEMENT THAT SS-20 HAD NOT BEEN TESTED AT TYURA-TAM OR PLESETSKAYA. BEKETOV DEFINED "TESTING" IN THE CONTEXT OF THEIR PROPOSAL AS "DOING ANYTHING WITH THE SYSTEM". AT ONE POINT DURING DISCUSSION, JOHNSON LOOSELY USED THE TERM "NEW ICBMS" IN DISCUSSING THE POTENTIAL THREAT OF THE SS-18/19 TO FIXED US LAUNCHERS. SECRET

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 06643 041900Z

CHERS. BEKETOV INTERRUPTED QUICKLY TO SAY THAT "NEW ICBMS" WAS AN ISSUE THEY COULD NOT DISCUSS. EARLE

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